

**From:** Dave La Vack  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 11/20/01 8:54pm  
**Subject:** ms settlement

To whom it may concern,

As the CEO of a small information technology firm I have tried to follow the Microsoft suit from it's inception several years ago. As time has gone by I've seen Microsoft not only continue its predatory practices but position itself to completely take over the computer software market and has even broadened it's focus to other markets. The new .net strategy makes the current predatory practices appear miniscule. If this happens, there will be nothing you can do to stop them. From my point of view the settlement is pure and simple politics. The current settlement proposal slaps Microsoft on the hand and asks the company not to do it again. The sad part is that Microsoft makes, at best, mediocre software. The people who are creating great software can't compete so the consumer loses every time.

The way I see it, stopping Microsoft from taking over this and other industries would be too inconvenient. We have long forgotten the principles on which this country was founded. We have sold them out for convenience. It would be too inconvenient to do the right thing. It was too inconvenient to count each and every ballot in Florida regardless of whether the voter's rights were infringed. It would have taken too long, and well, we were just not willing to wait. My suggestion is to get them out of either the application or OS business. Let them have one but not both. Make them get rid of the Office suite of products so the buyer can make them work equally well under linux, mac, unix, etc. This way they would have to actually create some decent software to keep people in their camp. If only it were convenient.

I'm quite sure that Microsoft will continue to dominate the computer OS and Application software industry forever because no one can afford to challenge them - not even the U.S. Government. With the hidden agendas of the current administration, it would be a pipe dream to think that the justice department would consider the consumer's interests over big business in such a matter. So there, if you couldn't tell already, I'm not happy about the proposed current settlement. Big business wins and the consumer loses no matter how you dress it up.

Regards,  
L. David La Vack

--

-

dave la vack, systems engineer

shiner systems  
information technology for creative professionals  
101 west fifth street suite 239  
winston-salem nc 27101 usa  
tel 336 722 0001 - fax 336 722 4477  
dave@shinersystems.com

"Don't waste your time on jealousy. Sometimes you're ahead,  
sometimes you're behind. The race is long and, in the end,  
it's only with yourself."